tions for upgradation of five medical colleges in different Sates which did not include West Bengal. The Govt. after careful consideration of all aspects of the matter, including the availability of resources, the likely impact of such a scheme and constitutional responsibility of the Central Government in this regard, have decided not to include this scheme in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Inclusion of nickel in the list of toxic metals

1403. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nickel is included in the list of toxic metals; if not the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteraiton Act for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA : (a) to (c) Nickle has not been classified as a poisonous metal under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The entire issue of occurrence of nickle in food vis-a-vis laying down its limit has been recently examined by the experts, who have recommended that the Indian Council for Medical Research should evaluate the scientific evidence of toxicity of nickel when consumed orally and advise the Government on the need for setting standard for nickel content in food articles. Final view on the matter would be taken after considering the report of ICMR.

Legislation to ban tobacco products in public places

1404. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to enact any comprehensive legislation to ban cigarette smoking in public places and advertisements of all tobacco related products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the proposed comprehensive legislation, it is intended *inter-alia* to :

(i) impose a ban on the sale of tobacco or tobacco products within a distance of 100 metres from schools, educational institutions, hospitals and medical institutions.

(ii) prohibit smoking in certain selected public places like hospitals, educational institutions, conference rooms, domestic air flights, A/C Chair Cars/sleeper coaches, suburban trains, public transport etc.

(iii) impose a complete ban on all forms of advertisements in respect of tobacco related products after studying the implications vis-a-vis the experience of other countries of the world in this regard.

(iv) prescribe statutory warning on all packages of tobacco and tobacco products in appropriate forms, size and language to make them prominent and effective.

(c) Does not arise.

Total bed strength in Government Hospitals

1405. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total bed strength in Government hospitals (both State and Union Government); and

(b) what are the State-wise details in both urban and rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) As on 1-1-91, there are a total number of